



# News Release

## Department of Health and Wellness

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 2, 2009

### **2 – 4 Year Olds First to Receive H1N1 Vaccine** *Health Department Receives Limited Supply in Shipment*

To assist residents choosing to receive the novel H1N1 (swine flu) vaccine, the Fulton County Department of Health and Wellness provides the following guidelines about their vaccination process:

#### **Vaccine Availability**

Fulton County has received a very limited supply of nasal spray vaccine from the initial shipment, 5,300 doses. The state is expecting to receive 54,800 doses.

Due to the limited amount, the Georgia Department of Community Health has advised local health districts to offer the nasal spray to healthy children ages 2-4 and their care givers. Children are one of the priority target groups to receive the H1N1 vaccine because they are more susceptible to contracting and spreading the virus. Children with compromised immune systems are not able to receive this vaccine; that group will have to wait until the injectable version arrives.

The nasal spray is not for everyone. This form of vaccine contains a “live” agent that could cause complications for pregnant women and people with compromised immune systems.

Residents are asked to be sensitive to the need to protect our young ones and allow them the opportunity to be vaccinated against this virus.

It is anticipated that more vaccine will be delivered as it is manufactured. Public notifications will be made about availability. The status can be checked by calling 404.730.1211 or going to our website, [www.fultoncountyggahealth.org](http://www.fultoncountyggahealth.org).

*Eventually, anyone who wants the protection provided by the vaccine will be able to get it*

#### **Doses**

- Children receiving the nasal spray vaccine will need a second vaccination one month after the initial dose.

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### **Recommended Target Groups**

Fulton County will follow the recommendations given by the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). The groups highly recommended to receive the novel H1N1 influenza vaccine as it is delivered include:

- Pregnant women
- Household contacts and caregivers for children younger than 6 months of age
- Healthcare and emergency medical services personnel
- All people from 6 months through 24 years of age
- Children from 6 months through 18 years of age
- Young adults 19 through 24 years of age
- Persons aged 25 through 64 years who have health conditions

Disease incidence is low for those 65 and older; therefore they are not a priority group to receive vaccine. This population should get seasonal flu vaccine, however.

Eventually, anyone who wants the protection provided by the vaccine will be able to get it. We all have to wait for delivery.

### **Points of Distribution (POD)**

In Fulton, the vaccines will be available at eight health centers –

North Fulton Regional Health Center 3155 Royal Drive, Suite 125 Alpharetta, GA 30004 (404) 332-1958	Adamsville Health Center 3699 Bakers Ferry Rd., S.W. Atlanta, Georgia 30331 (404) 699-4215
Sandy Springs Health Center 330 Johnson Ferry Rd., N.E. Atlanta, Georgia 30328 (404) 303-6162	Center Hill Health Center 3201 Atlanta Industrial Pkwy, N.W., Ste 302 Atlanta, Georgia 30331 (404) 699-6370
The Center for Health and Rehabilitation 265 Boulevard, N.E. Atlanta, Georgia 30312 (404) 730-5835	Neighborhood Union Health Center 186 Sunset Ave., N.W. Atlanta, Georgia 30318 (404) 612-4665
Lakewood Health Center 1853 Jonesboro Rd., S.E. Atlanta, Georgia 30315 (404) 624-0626	College Park Regional Health Center 1920 John Wesley Ave. College Park, Georgia 30337 (404) 765-4155

Call 404.730.1211 or going to our website, [www.fultoncountygahahealth.org](http://www.fultoncountygahahealth.org) for center locations and directions.

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If demand dictates, PODs will be established at major arenas in the county - Phillips Arena, North Pointe Mall, Turner Field, Georgia International Convention Center and the Verizon Amphitheatre.

Several private providers have registered with the state to administer the vaccine. Check with your doctor regarding availability.

### **What to Expect**

- **Cost:** According to the Georgia Department of Community Health, it is not permissible to charge patients a co-pay or out-of-pocket fees in public health clinics or mass vaccinations sites/clinics conducted by or on behalf of a public health entity. However, it is permissible to bill third-party payers/insurers in public health clinics or mass vaccinations sites/clinics conducted by or on behalf of a public health entity. Check with your provider regarding any fees.
- **History:** Residents will need to be able to provide a list of all known allergies, medical conditions and medications.
- **Safety:** To monitor for side effects, there will be a 20 minute observation period after the vaccine has been administered.
- **Supply:** A consistent supply of vaccine is expected to be delivered as manufacturing increasing. Supply status notifications will be made available to the media and will be posted on [www.fultoncountygahealth.org](http://www.fultoncountygahealth.org).

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